

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 1, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants have not received acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 27, 2001, April 15, 2002, February 6, 2003, and May 6, 2003. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of these Information Disclosure Statements.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors in the paragraphs beginning at page 4, line 22; bridging pages 7 and 8; beginning at page 9, line 16; and beginning at page 18, line 18. These amendments are consistent with those made in the parent application on April 15, 1996, and November 10, 1999.

Also, the specification has been amended to clarify the subject matter of the present invention. This clarification was also made in an *Amendment* filed August 31, 1998, in the parent application, Serial No. 08/633,307, now U.S. Patent No. 6,335,541, and is believed to be appropriate for entry in the present application. Since an angle between an arbitrary $\langle 111 \rangle$ axis and $\{111\}$ planes is necessarily either 90° or 19.5° , when there is a $\langle 111 \rangle$ axis in parallel to a surface, a $\{111\}$ plane has an angle at least 19.5° with respect to that surface. That is, it is impossible that the surface has a $\{111\}$ plane when an $\langle 111 \rangle$ axis is in parallel with the surface. Accordingly, a surface of the above-mentioned semiconductor film necessarily does not have a $\{111\}$ plane. Therefore, the specification has been amended to correct this error and now recites as follows: "From the foregoing facts, it can be concluded that the surface of the lateral

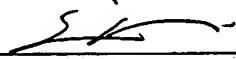
growth region 25 has a plane at least one of those expressed by {hkl} ($h+k=l$), for example, {110}, {123}, {134}, {235}, {145}, {156}, {257}, or {167}, or the neighborhood thereof" (paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9).

The Official Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, asserting that the specification does not support the features of claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, i.e. "a silicon crystal has a [111] axis parallel with the insulating surface" (page 2, Paper No. 9). The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the assertion in the Official Action. It is noted that the specification clearly teaches a crystalline semiconductor film formed on a substrate wherein the semiconductor film has a [111] axis in parallel to the substrate surface (see page 14, lines 1-8). Since the specification teaches a crystalline semiconductor film formed on a substrate wherein the semiconductor film has a [111] axis in parallel to the substrate surface, then the Applicants respectfully submit that the specification supports the claim feature that a silicon crystal has a [111] axis parallel with the insulating surface. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-20 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-26 of commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,335,541 to Ohtani et al. In response to this rejection, a *Terminal Disclaimer* will be filed as soon as it is complete. Upon filing of this *Terminal Disclaimer*, the claims of the present invention are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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